

Notes: Shabbat – January 21 2017

Start: 10 AM

Order of service:

1. Meet and greet
2. Introduction
3. Announcements
4. Liturgy – Ma to vu, Sh'ma, Avenu
5. Music
6. Message
7. Time of prayer
8. Aaronic Blessing
9. Kiddush
10. Oneg

Children's Blessing:

Transliteration: *Ye'simcha Elohim ke-Ephraim ve hee-Menashe*

English: *May God make you like Ephraim and Menashe*

Transliteration: *Ye'simech Elohim ke-Sarah, Rivka, Rachel ve-Leah.*

English: *May God make you like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah.*

Title: Leadership – Born or Made?

Yesterday, in watching the inauguration ceremonies for our 45th President and the transition of power in our country afforded by the Constitution, one word started to resonate with me...

Leadership

What is before us is our new leader of the country, elected, yet not everyone has embraced this change. The office is recognized as the “highest office in the land”, and therefore the one who occupies this office is not only considered the leader of our nation, but is also recognized as the leader of the free world due to this country's prominence in the world.

I was reading an article regarding Israel and Prime Minister Netanyahu's response to the inauguration. He conveyed Israel's hope in new American leadership.

People seek a leader. One whom they can trust, One whom will guide them. We ultimately desire to be led, even though we constantly are rebelling against our leaders.

As these thoughts were developing in my mind, including the saying “leaders are born, not made”

Are leaders born and not made?

Obviously, a leader must be born, but are they born a leader.

In the eyes of Adonai, I would say yes...

Psa 22:8 "He committed himself to Adonai, so let him rescue him! Let him set him free if he takes such delight in him!"

Psa 22:9 But you are the one who took me from the womb, you made me trust when I was on my mother's breasts.

Psa 22:10 Since my birth I've been thrown on you; you are my God from my mother's womb.

Isa 44:2 Thus says Adonai, who made you, formed you in the womb, and will help you: Don't be afraid, Ya`akov my servant, Yeshurun, whom I have chosen.

Isa 49:1 Coastlands, listen to me; listen, you peoples far away: Adonai called me from the womb; before I was born, he had spoken my name.

Psa 139:13 For you fashioned my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Psa 139:14 I thank you because I am awesomely made, wonderfully; your works are wonders - I know this very well.

He knows who He has called to lead, yet in the case of Moshe, he most certainly had to develop into the role. He did not just appear and say "hear I am, your leader, full of confidence and strength."

No, Moshe most certainly needed to grow into the position Adonai had assigned to him...

From his miraculous birth...in this week's Parashah - Shemot

Israel still resides in the land of Egypt, long after Yoseph's death, growing in numbers to the point that the Egyptians hated them...

Exo 1:12 But the more the Egyptians oppressed them, the more they multiplied and expanded, until the Egyptians came to dread the people of Isra'el

To the point where the current Pharaoh instructs the midwives...

Exo 1:16 "When you attend the Hebrew women and see them giving birth," he said, "if it's a boy, kill him; but if it's a girl, let her live."

Yet, unbenounced to Pharaoh, the midwives are God-fearers.

Exo 1:17 However, the midwives were God-fearing women, so they didn't do as the king of Egypt ordered but let the boys live.

We know very little about the origin of these midwives and their reverence of God, was it the God of Avraham, Yitzchak and Ya'akov or was it one of the many Egyptian gods that is referenced here.

The Hebrew used here is elohym, which can refer to Adonai or it can refer to gods (plural), yet as Elohim is translated, God is capitalized, thus implying it is Adonai being referred to. Given that the edict to kill the first born male babies is specifically associated with the Hebrew women, then I would agree that it is referring to Adonai.

The interesting thing that Scripture does not reveal, is the dynamic of this relationship and how it came about. Yet, they were most certainly blessed by Adonai...

Exo 1:21 Indeed, because the midwives feared God, he made them founders of families.

Then Pharaoh gave a new order...

Exo 1:22 Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every boy that is born, throw in the river; but let all the girls live."

So, even before Moshe's birth, the odds were stacked against him.

Yet, Adonai was not ignorant of the situation.

Exo 2:1 A man from the family of Levi took a woman also descended from Levi as his wife.

Exo 2:2 When she conceived and had a son, upon seeing what a fine child he was, she hid him for three months.

Exo 2:3 When she could no longer hide him, she took a papyrus basket, coated it with clay and tar, put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the riverbank.

Against the odds of surviving, given the current edict of Pharaoh, Moshe would be found by Pharaoh's daughter, the very one who declared he and all the Hebrew boys be put to death. Ultimately, he would reside in an Egyptian home and become educated in the Egyptian ways. Yet, even with this upbringing, it did not change his heart or the connection he had to the children of Israel...

Exo 2:11 One day, when Moshe was a grown man, he went out to visit his kinsmen; and he watched them struggling at forced labor. He saw an Egyptian strike a Hebrew, one of his kinsmen.

Exo 2:12 He looked this way and that; and when he saw that no one was around, he killed the Egyptian and hid his body in the sand.

What he was told or knew about his kinsmen is not fully expressed in Scripture, yet here it is revealed to us the reader that there was some sort of connection.

Exo 2:13 The next day, he went out and saw two Hebrew men fighting with each other. To the one in the wrong he said, "Why are you hitting your companion?"

Exo 2:14 He retorted, "Who appointed you ruler and judge over us? Do you intend to kill me the way you killed the Egyptian?" Moshe became frightened. "Clearly," he thought, "the matter has become known."

Exo 2:15 When Pharaoh heard of it, he tried to have Moshe put to death. But Moshe fled from Pharaoh to live in the land of Midyan...

And with this, Moshe was now facing his third encounter with death.

But this is only the beginning of his story. Yet it is interesting the response in verse 14...

"Who appointed you ruler and judge over us?"

I wonder what Moshe's response to this statement was? Would it be what we are going to see in Chapter 3?

So, Moshe flees and time passes.

Exo 2:23 Sometime during those many years the king of Egypt died, but the people of Isra'el still groaned under the yoke of slavery, and they cried out, and their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God.

Exo 2:24 God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Avraham, Yitz'chak and Ya`akov.

Exo 2:25 God saw the people of Isra'el, and God acknowledged them.

Adonai hears the cries of His people.

Exo 3:1 Now Moshe was tending the sheep of Yitro his father-in-law, the priest of Midyan. Leading the flock to the far side of the desert, he came to the mountain of God, to Horev.

Exo 3:2 The angel of Adonai appeared to him in a fire blazing from the middle of a bush. He looked and saw that although the bush was flaming with fire, yet the bush was not being burned up.

Exo 3:3 Moshe said, "I'm going to go over and see this amazing sight and find out why the bush isn't being burned up."

Exo 3:4 When Adonai saw that he had gone over to see, God called to him from the middle of the bush, "Moshe! Moshe!" He answered, "Here I am."

This is the moment where an unsuspecting Moshe's life will change forever as Adonai reveals Himself and will ultimately reveal His intentions for Moshe, intentions that have always been with him, from the moment Moshe was conceived in his mother's womb.

Exo 3:5 He said, "Don't come any closer! Take your sandals off your feet, because the place where you are standing is holy ground."

Exo 3:6 I am the God of your father," he continued, "the God of Avraham, the God of Yitz'chak and the God of Ya`akov." Moshe covered his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

Exo 3:7 Adonai said, "I have seen how my people are being oppressed in Egypt and heard their cry for release from their slavemasters, because I know their pain.

Exo 3:8 I have come down to rescue them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that country to a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey, the place of the Kena`ani, Hitti, Emori, P'rizi, Hivi and Y'vusi.

Exo 3:9 Yes, the cry of the people of Isra'el has come to me, and I have seen how terribly the Egyptians oppress them.

Adonai chooses Moshe to be His representative, and lead Israel out of Egypt, yet Moshe's responses are anything but leader like...

Exo 3:11 Moshe said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and lead the people of Isra'el out of Egypt?"

Exo 3:13 Moshe said to God, "Look, when I appear before the people of Isra'el and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you'; and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what am I to tell them?"

Exo 4:1 Moshe replied, "But I'm certain they won't believe me, and they won't listen to what I say, because they'll say, 'Adonai did not appear to you.' "

Exo 4:10 Moshe said to Adonai, "Oh, Adonai, I'm a terrible speaker. I always have been, and I'm no better now, even after you've spoken to your servant! My words come slowly, my tongue moves slowly."

In each case, Moshe was running away in his mind from this position...

So, at this moment in time was Moshe leadership material? In his mind, he certainly wasn't, yet to Adonai, He wasn't interviewing for the position but rather delegating the position to Moshe. It was his role, whether he wanted it or not, and in spite of his words...

Exo 4:13 But he replied, "Please, Lord, send someone else — anyone you want!"

I found an article that conveys what some of these key personality traits that can transform an ordinary person into a successful leader? <http://developedself.com/20-characteristics-leader>

1. Honesty

Always be honest with employees or team members.

Being open and truthful with those underneath the leadership level will help the employees to know where they stand.

When it comes to honesty, keeping a certain standard will open the door for everyone in the office to uphold the same values of being open and honest as well.

2. Communication

A true leader must be able to express their vision to others.

What may be perfectly clear in your mind, may not be relayed clearly to other members of the team. This [communication must be clear](#) and concise so that everyone shares the same goals.

The communication of a great leader goes both ways. Listening and understanding others is imperative to making sure the entire team is on the same page.

One way to make sure that others are comfortable talking and sharing their ideas with the team is to encourage an open door policy, where each individual is free to discuss matters that may help the team without the other team members being present.

Moshe most certainly thought he lacked this ability, yet Adonai was not willing to accept this.

Exo 4:11 Adonai answered him, "Who gives a person a mouth? Who makes a person dumb or deaf, keen-sighted or blind? Isn't it I, Adonai?"

Exo 4:12 Now, therefore, go; and I will be with your mouth and will teach you what to say."

3. Ability to Delegate

In a team environment, a leader does not have to take on all of the tasks required to complete a project alone.

It is important that a good leader knows the strengths and the weaknesses of each of the members of the team. Utilizing these strengths will allow everyone to grow and the team as a whole will flourish. Team members will feel appreciated when they are trusted to do additional tasks, and this will bring up the morale of the team as a whole.

Delegating tasks will also free up time to complete managerial tasks that cannot be delegated to others.

We will see this later in Moshe's walk of leadership, and yes it is something else that was developed in him

4. Confidence

Confidence is a leadership aspect that can keep your team morale and productivity up.

Being confident of the situation at hand and the way it will be handled can help team members to solve any problem.

Employees will take cues from the leadership, so anyone in that position must have faith in themselves to be able to handle any situation. People want a leader who knows every solution, or at least one who is confident enough to say that they do not. There is nothing wrong with admitting a lack of knowledge as long as a leader has the confidence they can find the correct information.

Moshe did not exude the confidence to be a leader. Without confidence from the leader, then those you are entrusted to lead will not be confident in your ability to lead.

5. Commitment

A great leader will show commitment to their brand or cause.

Lead by example and a good work ethic will be formed amongst every one of the team members. Always keep promises or commitments made to the team, whether it is a yearly work picnic or casual Friday. Staying true to these commitments will encourage the team to work harder to fulfill their obligations as well.

6. Positive Attitude

The energy levels of the workplace start with those who have a leadership role possessing a positive attitude.

Everyone on the team is a person with emotions that can affect their outlook, but striving to exhibit a positive attitude can motivate others to do the same. Consider offering snacks or coffee to the employees to add a bit of cheer to the work environment.

A person who is cheerful and positive is often more likely to put forth their best effort, even if it requires them to stay an extra hour or two to complete the project at hand.

7. Intuition

As a leader, daily tasks often become something that can be easily achieved as a team, but what about when new scenarios arise?

Taking a team through uncharted waters can give a leader a feeling of uncertainty, when there is no map or guidance for discovering the unexplored territory. It is a leader's responsibility to guide the members of the team through the unfamiliar situation by drawing on past experience and relying on intuition to make decisions that will help the team to be successful. Trusting yourself will help determine what to do when a tough decision needs to be made.

8. Creativity

Decisions that a good leader needs to make are not always simple, cut and dry choices.

Sometimes a situation only has two seemingly bad choices. Having a creative side can often allow exploration into areas that were not considered, which can transform a bad solution into a much better option. If creativity is a strong point of certain members of the team, bring them in on a brainstorming session that can get the entire team thinking outside the box while striving to reach the finish line.

9. Sense of Humor

Having a sense of humor is important for any workplace.

The entire team will often look to the leader to determine the type of atmosphere that is acceptable within their first few days, so why not start a working relationship with a new team member by pulling a lighthearted prank. Show the new employee that the team can have fun together and still accomplish the goals set before them in a timely fashion.

When problems arise, it is important to laugh them off instead of becoming upset and yelling at the team. A sense of humor will keep the morale of the team up as well as productivity.

10. Ability to Inspire

Inspiration is something that will encourage any team to work hard on current projects as well as future goals.

It is important for any leader to inspire their team and praise them for their accomplishments. When a person feels appreciated, they tend to be inspired to put forth their best effort while completing the task at hand. One way to inspire others is to offer bonus incentives to those who do exceptional work. No matter how small the bonus, the added incentive will boost the morale of the employees as they compete to claim the prize offered to them.

11. Take Responsibility

A great leader is not afraid to take responsibility when failure occurs.

No matter how big or small the problem is, take responsibility for the mistake and figure out how to fix it. Showing this trait to team members will encourage them to take responsibility for their actions as well, which will help the team to better trust one another when problems and issues arise.

12. Ability to Care

A great leader is also a caring leader.

It is important to care about the business and the projects set in front of the team, but it is even more important to

care about the team members themselves. Ask the members of the team about their family members and what they did over the weekend. Get to know each individual member of the team and take an interest in their personal growth within the workplace.

13. Fearlessness

A true leader is not afraid to take risks just because mistakes can be made.

Fearlessness is an important trait for a leader, because it will show the members of the team that taking a risk often pays off. If the risk does not produce an acceptable outcome, own the mistake and fix the problem.

14. Ability to Manage Failure

Failure will occur in almost any work environment, but the way the failure is handled will determine how good the leadership is within the environment.

A great leader will remain calm during a stressful situation. Make use of all of the resources available and logically find a path towards the solution. Revealing that the leadership is worried can cause chaos and negative morale amongst team members, so remain positive and demonstrate how to turn a setback into a step forward.

15. Genuine

Upholding personal values are important in a working environment.

Any values that are important at home or in a public venue should also be applied to any leadership role. Forsaking these values will allow the members of the team to see a less genuine leader. Have the strength to remain true to yourself, and the other team members will not be afraid to genuinely express themselves and their values.

16. Supportive

A good leader will offer their support to the members of the team whenever possible.

Take steps to acknowledge the work that the employees do, and make an effort to let them know their work is appreciated. Offer support for solving problems, whether they are professional or personal, and the added effort can help boost the morale in the office. A positive working atmosphere with supportive leaders will allow the employees to flourish and produce their best work.

17. Collaborative

Being able to collaborate with team member and make everyone feel like an important team player is a beneficial trait of a great leader.

Ask for input and ideas from the team for an upcoming project, or get feedback relating to a completed task that may help the team be more productive in the future. Get every team member involved in the process and recognize them when they have a brilliant idea.

18. Focus

It is important to have a strong focus.

Team members will typically follow the main focus that the leader sets forth. Making sure the focus is clear and the priorities are set early is a great way to assure that the team knows where to set their focus. Being unsure of what needs to be accomplished will inevitably slow down the team and productivity rate.

19. Respect

Treating every team member with respect is an attribute that all great leaders should strive to accomplish.

Regardless of class, color, or rank within the company, each person deserves to be treated with respect. This respect begins with management and the leadership within a company or a team. Respect is a two way street, when it comes to the members of a team. For a leader to gain the respect of the employees, they must show that they respect each and every person on their team. There can be no favoritism shown from a good leader.

20. Ability to Celebrate

A lot of work environments can be stressful for the team members.

Projects can require extreme concentration as well as long hours each day over an extended period of time. This stressful atmosphere can cause the team members to feel burnt out and exhausted, which will lower team morale. A good leader will lighten the mood by allowing everyone a bit of relaxation to recharge. When a big project is completed, celebrate the success of the team. Take the time to provide a catered lunch for the employees or offer to buy them all a drink after work to thank them for all of their hard work. Give the team a chance to take a breather and get ready for the next big project.

You don't have to be a leader to possess any or all of these traits. I believe Adonai has instilled them in us.

Therefore you don't have to be designated as a leader to actually lead. Leading by example is leading.

Ultimately, leadership is developed. All of these aspects of leadership are developed therefore leaders are not just born but they are made also.

Adonai designates, but we must develop these traits. Even if you don't believe you are a leader, by developing these traits of a leader will expand your

One other observation – who were Israel's greatest leaders?

Moshe we have spent time on.

David, King of Israel

Yeshua.

All three of them are identified as shepherds. Adonai's greatest leaders were shepherds, considered to be a lowly position in society, yet to Adonai a position of importance.

Yeshua, Messiah, a carpenter by trade but a Shepherd at heart.

Joh 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Joh 10:12 The hired hand, since he isn't a shepherd and the sheep aren't his own, sees the wolf coming, abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf drags them off and scatters them.

Joh 10:13 The hired worker behaves like this because that's all he is, a hired worker; so it doesn't matter to him what happens to the sheep.

Joh 10:14 I am the good shepherd; I know my own, and my own know me —